THE STAR

RADIATING THE LIGHT
OF TRUTH ON
HANSEN'S DISEASE.

4th War Loan Drive

February 1944
VOLUME 3 No. 6

RADIATING THE LIGHT OF TRUTH ON HANSEN'S DISEASE

Published monthly by the patients of the United States Marine Hospital, National Leprosarium, Carville, Louisiana.
Instructive or amusing articles, poems, etc. are solicited and will be used as space and occasion permits. All material must be signed.
Subscription price $1.00 a year. Patients may subscribe for themselves or for their families for .50¢ a year.
Address all communications to THE STAR, CARVILLE, LOUISIANA.

Stanley Stein----------Editor Ann Page----------Associate Editor
Roland Roberts----------Art Editor
TECHNICAL STAFF

	Hilda Garcia	Elvira DelReal
A. Desel	Pete Bellocampo	William Chin
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Miracle	Dalton	Gilbert Lee
Steve Medina	Joe De Zaballa	Manuel Benitez
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"In order that leprosy may be dealt with successfully on a comprehensive scale, and before any large proportion of early cases will come voluntarily for examination, there must be a change in the attitude of the public toward the disease. Any scheme for the control of leprosy will depend for its success on an educated public opinion."

Recommendation of World Conference on Leprosy, Cairo, Egypt, March 1938.

FACTS THAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HANSEN'S DISEASE

The transmission of Hansen's disease being still unsolved, the medical world classes it as "feebly communicable".

The Leprosarium at Carville was founded forty-nine years ago. To date not a single member of the personnel has contracted the disease, nor has a case developed in the adjacent neighborhood.

Doctors and nurses take very simple precautions, not comparable with those they would take in dealing with diphtheria, typhoid and other communicable diseases.

Visitors are admitted freely, nor are they required to take any special precautions.

This paper, and all outgoing mail, is sterilized before leaving the hospital. THE STAR, rolled as we send it to you, requires 1½¢ postage, when sealed in a large envelope it requires 9¢ postage. Mail it to a friend when you have finished reading it. Help us to radiate the light of truth on Hansen's disease.

PRINTING PRESS ARRIVES

Anything out of the routine of everyday life excites Carvillians. Saturday, January22 excitement reigned supreme in and near House 15.

Soon after breakfast the trucks and men began to arrive and wrod spread faster than any telegraph system ever known, "The printing press is being unloaded."

Men assembled as if by magic to see the long talked of press and this one gal was johnny-on-the-spot. The only persons not happy were the employees trying to unload and transfer this heavy machine to the small room designated as The Star office.

Much strenous effort was required to unload it from the truck, put it on a smaller truck to be pushed down the walks and into the elevator. When the second floor was reached the elevator dropped back a couple of inches, the press could not be moved and heavy timbers had to be placed under the wheels of the small truck. The hall was finally achieved but then-- it wouldn't pass the doorway of the office. Every bolt that could be removed was taken off and next the door of 204 from its hinges. It was high time for yours truly to get clear of the neighborhood for sometimes strong speech accomplishes miracles. I didn't want to cramp the men's style nor did I care to learn a new vocabulary.

VISITORS

Sunday we had distinguished visitors including Mr.Sam Rubin, Grand Chef de Gare,40 & 8 Grand Voiture of Louisiana, who donated the press to us, Mr.Claude A. Brown, National Field Secretary of the American Legion of Little Rock, Arkansas, Mr. Charles Mitchell, Grand Correspondent, 40 & 8 Grand Voiture of Louisiana,Mr. B.L.Spann, Chairman of the Carville Committee,Mr. G.G. Wilkes, Chef de Gare of Voiture 340, Mr. A.W.Pender, and Mr. and Mrs.L.L. McCormick.

The entire party motored over from Baton Rouge where they had been attending the annual State Conderence of Department Commanders and Adjutants of the American Legion.

During their visit to The Star office while grouped around the press the Forty and Eighters and Dr. Faget were snapped by our staff photographer, Johnnie.This photo will appear in the forthcoming National Forty and Eight magazine.

Members of the local American Legion Post were on hand to greet the visitors.

PRESS ASSEMBLED

It was necessary to ship the press in pieces, so most of the week machinists and electricians worked putting the machine together, wiring the room with more powerful lines and finally painters touching up walls and the door.

All is in running order now and when we secure the balance of the needed equipment we should be all set to learn this new trade - - printing.

RECREATIONAL AID ARRIVES

Mr. Grover C.Thames of Shreveport,Louisiana,formerly connected with the National Recreation Association of New York,assumed his duties as Recreational Aid here of February 1.

He plans to provide recreational activities suitable for all and will devote a considerable part of his time to teaching printing and directing this phase of The Star work as soon as essential equipment is secured.

Mr. Thames position should fill a long felt need in this hospital.

RED CROSS CARNIVAL PLANNED

The National Red Cross Drive is scheduled for the month of March and the patients here will stage their Carnival early in March to raise their share of the funds.

The usual games of chance will be operated and many useful and unusual articles will be raffled.

Already Miss Ella has crocheted four lovely scarfs and donated them for this purpose. The B-Natural Club spent $5.00 for wool yarn. With this Grace is busy knitting a man's slip over sweater and Marie is knitting a cap to go with it. These girls feel it is a privilege to be knitting for such a worthy cause.

We have heard rumors of articles such as a Priscilla sewing-cabinet, book ends, knitting bag, hand made purse, table covers and aprons.

It is strictly not a rumor that the girls are going to make homemade cakes and pies. They are already on the lookout for sugar and butter.

We won't tell you much about what you will find that day for if you know too much there won't be that element of surprise to lure you and your pocket book but we urge you to plan to attend and try your luck. Even when luck is against you it will be a lucky day for the Red Cross.

Watch the bulletin board for the exact date and further details.

FEBRUARY WAR STAMP SALES

Patients, eager to finish their War Stamp books in time to have another Bond in the 4th War Loan Drive, dug deep in their pockets to purchase the needed stamps this month. This is the spirit! 1944 is the year in which important events will occur and we cannot let up but must increase our investment month after month.

(continued next column)

THE MARINE HOSPITAL AT CARVILLE HEADS THE LIST!

The STATEMENT OF RELATIVE STANDING OF HOSPITAL STATIONS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE IN THE WAR BOND CAMPAIGN as of December 31 recently issued by the U.S. Public Health Service at Washington, D. C. lists this Marine Hospital first in rank of 26 United States Marine Hospitals, showing 100% employees participation with 15.1 percentage pay roll allotted.

It was in October 1943 that the U.S. Public Health Service requested that each employee allot 15% of his monthly pay check toward War Bond purchases and this is the only one of the 26 hospitals achieving such a high standing, the next best being 13.1%.

Two other stations rate a 100% employee participation, the U. S. Marine Hospitals at Savannah and Galveston, ranking 2nd and 5th respectively in the list based on percentage of pay roll allotted.

The U.S. Marine Hospital at New Orleans ranks 7th on the list with a 99% employee participation.

The employees at the U.S. Marine Hospital at Carville are so proud of this high rank that no other postion will suffice on subsequent lists.

Mary E. Browne

No member of the armed services has said, "I've done enough, I' ll quit now." If these boys facing death so bravely have no idea of giving up why should we hesitate before redoubling our efforts? By coming to the assistance of our country now in her time of need we are at the same time investing against that time when we will need cash for our own rehabilitation.

The February War Stamp sales amounted to $257.00 and no one knows how many Bonds were bought by patients without every buying War Stamps first.

OUTLOOK BRIGHT FOR AMERICAN LEGION VOTING RESOLUTION

Progress has been made and prospects are favorable, at this writing, for the successful accomplishment of the proposal set forth in the American Legion Resolution asking that the right to vote be given to those patients of this hospital who are duly qualified. This resolution was published in the January 1944 STAR and copies of it have been sent to many State and National officials. It also appeared in the February issue of the Louisiana Legionnaire.

United States Senator Allen J. Ellender, referring to the resolution, said, "I am under the impression that these patients (Marine Hospital, Carville, La.) are not prevented from voting because they are patients of a hospital but because they fail to meet the voting requirements of the State of Louisiana. I therefore called the U.S. Public Health Service to ascertain whether or not there was Federal restrictions on the voting of Carville patients, and I am advised that it is a matter over which the Federal Government has no control. As you know, under our Constitution the voting requirements of the various states are determined by the States themselves."

Accordingly, the matter has been taken up with the State of Louisiana. The Attorney General's office now has the matter under consideration and is expected to render an opinion.

The Police Jury of Iberville Parish is also working on the proposal. The matter was brought to the attention of this group at a meeting in Plaquemine on Tuesday, February 8, by Carville's faithful friend, B.L. Spann, who personally appeared before the members of the Police Jury in our behalf. Mr. Spann reports that the Jurors were very receptive to the resolution. It is likely that if other legal requirements are satisfied, the Police Jury will establish a separate precinct within the hospital grounds.

A communication from Congressman James H. Morrison states that he will cooperate in every way in working out a plan for the patients in this institution to cast their votes in future elections.

State Commander Niles P. Evans, The Disabled American Veterans, advises that the Capital City Chapter, D.A.V., has unanimously gone on record as approving this resolution, and assures us that they will do everything possible to back it.

LOUISIANA 40 & 8 COMMENDED

From the February Louisiana Legionnaire we reprint the following letter:

THE AMERICAN LEGION
National Headquarters
Indianapolis, Ind.
December 22, 1944

Mr. Sam Rubin,
Grand Chef de Gare, 40/8,
323 Desiard St.,
Monroe, Louisiana.

Dear Grand Chef:

Word has been forwarded to me by Jim Mulcare of the donation by the 40 & 8 of Louisiana of $500 for the purchase of an electrically operated printing press for use of the patients at the Carville Leprosarium.

This is the kind of service for others that characterizes the 40 and 8 and I want to add my commendation to you and every member of La Societe of your State.

With best wishes and kindest regards, I remain

Very truly yours,
Warren A. Atherton,
National Commander.

RECREATIONAL [illegible]

A group of "sports" enthusiasts, strictly stag, heard Grover Thames, new Recreational Aid, outline his ideas for a program of recreational activities for the patients of this hospital at a meeting in the ballroom on Monday evening February 7. Soft ball, darts, croquet golf horseshoes, quoits and other games, for indoors and out, were mentioned as part of the liveliest sports setup ever attempted here. The gals have not been forgotten and they can look forward to a carefully arranged sports program. There will also be handcraft for both men and women.

Mr. Thames hopes to make arrangements so that the ballroom may be utilized for indoor games, making it a recreational center. Entertainments at regular intervals by visiting groups are included in the plans.

YOU ARE A VERY BUSY PERSON BUT...

Abraham Lincoln was a busy man but he took time out to read the Bible for a half-hour daily.

Franklin D. Roosevelt is a busy man but he takes time out to serve as church vestryman and to write, in summation of his philosophy of life: "We are inspired by a faith which goes back through all the years to the first chapter of the book of Genesis."

You are a busy man but you must take time out to help preserve the nation's greatest asset -- faith in God and in man, faith in honor and right, faith in moral values. Stand behind the religious institutions of your community. You have a responsibility that must be discharged for your family, your community, and all the future.

Temple Bulletin

OVER THE EDITOR'S DESK

The "Sisters Under the Skin" article which we originally wrote for THE VALLEY ECHO, Saskatchewan, Canada, continues to go the rounds of the tuberculosis publications. The latest magazine coming to our attention to reprint it is THE OREGON PULSE of the Oregon State Tuberculosis Hospital in its November issue. It was read by Alden B. Mills, managing editor of THE MODERN HOSPITAL and as a result Mr. Mills has invited the editor of THE STAR to contribute an article as an entry in the Gold Medal Award competition sponsored annually by this important national magazine.

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The Sanatorium Sun, a monthly publication of the Extension Department of the North Carolina Sanatorium, Sanatorium, N.C., is the latest exchange on our list. THE STAR, radiating Light, welcomes THE SUN, source of Light.

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DO YOU?

Do you criticize this paper?
Do you think it's not so good?
Do you think you could do better?
Yes -- I guess you could.

But have you sent in a good joke?
Or tried to write a line?
If you have you'll realize
That this paper's mighty fine.

BEACON

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The aggregate happiness of society, which is best promoted by the practice of a virtuous policy, is, or ought to be, the end of all government.

Washington

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To be prepared for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace.

Washington

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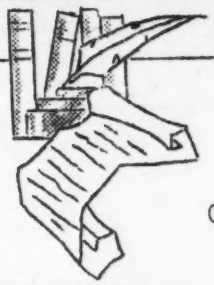
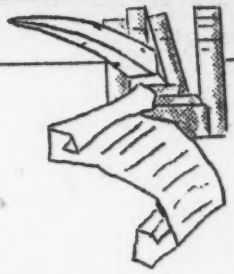
EDITORIAL





CARVILLE BILL OF WRONGS

FOREWORD: In the April STAR Dr. Faget published the Rules and Regulations governing the operation of this hospital. Dr. Faget did this because he knew the patients were not familiar with the rules although they have been in effect since 1922. In the light of experience gained in the past 20 years we feel that these rules should be revised. With this in mind, THE STAR has undertaken the detailed discussion of the eleven rules for we believe with Pericles who more than 2400 years ago said, "Acts are foredoomed to failure when undertaken undiscussed."

Rules 1 through 6 (a) were discussed in previous issues of THE STAR.

Rule 6(b). Patients shall on no account visit the quarters of patients of the opposite sex without permission of the Medical Officer in Charge. Visiting between patients of the opposite sex shall be permitted in the appointed visiting place only at such hours as may be set aside for that purpose.

Although Rule 6(b) definitely frowns upon it, romance blossoms regularly in Carville. For that matter, experience has proved here, as elsewhere, the stricter the rules concocted by man, intended to discourage l'amour, the more it is encouraged. It happens that the Creator in his divine wisdom made two opposite sexes, each with a powerful actraction for the other, so boy meets girl here -- under different circumstances, of course -- just as boy has been meeting girl all over the world since Adam met Eve.

Frankly, if we had not agreed, at the outset of this series, to discuss all eleven rules in detail, 6(b) is one we would have skipped without a backward look. Indeed, the ramifications of this "touchy" problem would give a trained sociologist a severe headache. Here are men and women, boys and girls, from every strata of society and of almost every nationality, with the fiery Latin temperament predominating, brought together in a daily, enforced intimacy, shut off from the outside world, not for a few months nor for a few years but, in many cases, for life. Any reasonable person will understand that rules which might apply in other hospitals or sanatoria, simply will not work here because of our unique setup. This place must be a home as well as a hospital and this fact should be a major consideration in formulating any rule such as 6(b).

Commenting on the Rules and Regulations shortly after their publication in the April 1943 STAR, one of our Western readers said, "I came on a paragraph that made me mad, item b, rule 6. I have always thought it such a splendid thing that those in charge of the place had sense enough to let you people live normal lives as near as possible. Now what do the authorities mean by this paragraph that you cannot visit in the quarters of the opposite sex? have they overlobked the fact that you are

(Continued on Page 6)

adult men and women? To say nothing of the fact that they seem to think that because you have lost your health you have lost your morals. I have never heard anything so downright asinine."

This reader has been informed of the present interpretation of Rule 6(b) but for the benefit of others, also for the purpose of discussion, it should be stated that the bark of this rule, under the present regime, is worse than its bite. The rule as now inforced is fair and satisfactory to the majority of the patients. At present patients are permitted to visit in the "quarters of the opposite sex", prepare and enjoy meals together, play games, and have some normal social life. This does not mean that the rule as it stands, black on white, cannot be twisted to meet the particular whims of the MOC who may be in charge, in whom, like the other rules, it invests absolute authority. Old timers know that it has been used during other regimes to deal plenty of misery to the patients and its enforcement has been carried to extremes. For this reason it should be revised to assure a continuation of a trend to give the patients a more nearly normal life in this institution. That part of the rule stating that "Visiting between patients of the opposite sex shall be permitted in the appointed place only at such hours as may be set aside for that purpose" is a hangover from the time this hospital was owned and operated by the State of Louisiana (1894-1921) when a high wall separated the sexes. It has no place in a national institution.

When the rules for this hospital were formulated it was only natural that the authorities were influenced by the rules in use at the state institution as there had been no previous experience in conducting a national leprosarium. It is interesting to note that they were warned against making such a mistake. Said farsighted Dr. Frederick L. Hoffman of Newark, N.J., to the Congressional Committee studying the national leprosy problem (1916), "At the Louisiana settlement the male patients live apart from the female patients, which the experience at Molokai has shown is neither desirable nor necessary. I am of the opinion that the less done to make the settlement resemble a prison or an institution the better."

We realize that there must be rules but these rules should be dictated by common sense and tailored to local conditions. If these rules are broken, and they will be by some among this heterogeneous group, then the offender should be punished accordingly and not the entire group as has too often happened in the past.

Nowhere in the eleven rules is marriage mentioned but marriage between patients is not permitted although we have two chaplains who could tie the nuptial knot. However, occasionally patients who are financially and otherwise able to go home on visits are married while on leave of absence and return to face the music. In such cases the government makes no provision for couples to maintain a home or family life. They live in separate quarters, eat in the mess hall, and the higher and more elevating phases of the marital relationship, those provided by a home and joint interests, are totally unprovided for. It is difficult to understand why this leprosarium should be the only one under the United States flag to adhere to such an abnormal policy with respect to marriage. Leprosaria in the Canal Zone, Hawaii and the Philippines all have special facilities and quarters for married couples. Here a

(continued on Page7)

few couples have built cottages at their own expense in the rear of the hospital grounds but even this is discouraged; the cottages already here are tolerated but we understand that no new ones will be permitted.

Who that has read Perry Burgess' moving factual novel, WHO WALK ALONE, can forget the impressive and beautiful wedding ceremony of Carmen and Tomas, two patients in the Culion Colony? Surrounded by their friends among the patients and personnel, Father Marello, the Catholic chaplain, and Mr. Manson, the Protestant chaplain, with the ceremony performed by Dr. Taborada, is it any wonder that "Tomas held his head high as with his bride, in her exquisit gown, beside him, he walked slowly and with dignity, followed by the wedding procession and guests, down to the beach for the traditional wedding feast."

Dr. E. R. Kellersberger, nationally known leprologist, who for 24 years conducted an agricultural leprosarium in Africa, recommends that patients in leprosaria be given "normal, wholesome living conditions and surroundings." In a recent paper, "Leprosy Today," reprinted from CLINICS (Vol.11, No.4), Dr. Kellersberger said regarding the prohibition of marriage among patients,, "I have come to the conclusion that there is not much difference between the danger of marriage (with the advantage of controlling the family and the children economically and medically), on the one hand, or of being responsible for immorality and promiscuity, and illegitimate children, together with the certainty of losing a number of patients, if we are too dogmatic."

Some years ago, when Dr. Jaques LeMee, prominent French Leprologist, visited Carville in the course of an observation trip to leprosaria over the world, he compared conditions here with other leprosaria, as he found them. Said Dr. LeMee, referring to Arafara in Tahiti, "A feature of this colony is that patients are permitted intermarriage." Dr. LeMee believes tha the system in Tahiti is very favorable to the patients. "On the other hand," said Dr. LeMee, "in hospitals like Carville, although they have the best of medical science, all kinds of commodities, diversions and a paper published by them, they are TREATED LIKE PATIENTS. Therefore it is very difficult to affect a cure. The best of all," continued Dr. LeMee, "would be to find the way to establish a practical system which combines the advantages of Carville's medical science and the normal life of Tahiti."

In the comprehensive program of recommendations for this hospital which was drawn up by a qualified committee and presented to the authorities long before the present new construction program got under way, certain measures were recommended which would have helped to bring about that ideal place described by Dr. LeMee. But they were ignored.

Because of this global war tropical diseases, including Hansen's, are coming in for far greater attention than ever before. It is encouraging that this attention is at long last focused not only on the disease but also on the patient for there is, between the two, as Dr. Chester N. Frazier of Galveston, Texas, expresses it, "a nice distinction."

For instance, our ally, England, now planning a post-war leprosarium ("Leprosy After the War" -- Dr. B. Moiser in the LEPROSY REVIEW, British Empire, July 1943) proposes to locate it in the mild climate of Southern Rhodesia on 8,400 acres of undulating land. Dr. Moiser emphasizes the

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SCIENCE SECTION OF "NEWSWEEK" (January 3, 1944) REPORTS ON LEPROSY

"Leprosy will be one of the diseases brought back to this country in the near and far future, as never before" warns Dr. E. R. Kellersberger of New York in the Bimonthly Medical Journal Clinics. His years of experience in observing and treating leprosy patients in the Belgian Congo and elsewhere have convinced him, moreover, that a campaign to tell the whole truth about one of the oldest known human scourges is in order: "The time seems now at hand not only to educate the laity as to the real status of the disease but to remove the mystery surrounding it, as we have done for tuberculosis and syphilis."

PREVALENCE: The latest statistics indicate there are as many as 10,000,000 leprosy victims in the world; by another estimate one out of every 185 of the earth's inhabitants is afflicted. At present, the areas of highest incidence are (in order of importance) Africa, Asia, the West Indies, Mexico, Central America, and the northern half of South America. What of the United States? Dr. Kellersberger's article makes it clear that while the present incidence is not at all alarming, it is sufficient to make increased vigilance essential. Cases of leprosy have been recorded in 38 states, and the disease is "endemic in Texas, Louisians, and Florida"; there may be between 1,000 and 1,500 cases in the country. (From another source NEWSWEEK learned that last year some half-dozen cases were found among members of this nation's armed forces but that all apparently had contracted it before induction.)

"There are selfish interests," writes Dr. Kellersberger, "that do not wish the truth publicized. To admit that there are cases of leprosy in most of our large cities would interfere with the commercial prosperity of some of our citizens. . . Until now even the medical profession as a whole has remained indifferent to the presence and danger of leprosy.. . .(and) feels it is not, as yet, a public health problem. The purpose of this article is to seek to prove that it will become one unless the general public as well as the medical profession learns more of its true nature."

BRIGHTER SIDE: Contrary to popular belief, leprosy is among the least contagious of diseases, since successful transmission ordinarily requires prolonged and intimate contact with an infected person. The plague is no longer thought to be inherited and, best of all from the standpoint of control, does not flourish except under unfavorable living conditions such as overcrowding, lack of hygiene, malnutrition, and vicious social habits. The Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul, who have been serving as nurses at the National Leprosarium at Carville, La., for nearly 50 years, have not had a single case. A doctor at the leprosarium voluntarily experimented with himself to see if the disease could be contracted by a person in good health taking normal care of himself. He tried for 3 years to induce infection but was unsuccessful. There still is a difference of opinion as to how the leprosy germ (mycobacterium leprae or bacillus leprae) attacks its victims, although it probably causes infection by direct inoculation through a break in the skin or through the mucous membrane of the nose. The disease works slowly----from two to five years elapse before symptoms develop.

SINISTER SIDE: According to Dr. Kellersberger, "by the time a

(See Page 9)

Newsweek (Continued)
true diagnosis is finally reached, the malady has fastened itself on the hapless individual so deeply that he is beyond hope of cure." One reason for the extreme difficulty of diagnosis is because most doctors are unfamiliar with leprosy. Signs of the disease include: Detection of the bacillus in skin or mucous membranes, areas where feeling is lacking, spots on the skin, thickening of nerves, and such side effects as loss of hair, atrophy of muscles, and loss of skin color.

Recent evidence proves that children and adolescents are more susceptible than adults; that some 44 per cent who continue to live with ill parents become infected.

NEW TREATMENT: Renewed hope that leprosy ultimately will be conquered, even in advanced cases, by the injection of promin, a sulfa drug, is seen in the just published report of Dr. G. H. Faget and his associates at the National Leprosarium, Carville, La.. Patients benefitted to such an extent as to warrant the statement that promin "can be regarded as the most encouraging experimental treatment ever undertaken at the Leprosarium." Of 22 patients given the treatment for at least twelve months, fifteen showed improvement; of 46 others treated for shorter periods, 26 also improved; only four of 68 patients grew worse while taking the injections. In five of the group of 22 and in seven of the group of 46 the leprosy organism no longer could be found. One man who had lerposy for twelve years was able to play baseball again. No claim is made that promin is a specific cure or that the course of the disease has been completely arrested in any case, but it is concluded. that the drug inhibits the progress of leprosy in a considerable percentage of cases.

NEWSWEEK

NOTE: NEWSWEEK's article conservative and authoritative, is in sharp contrast to the one which recently appeared in TIME.

Abstracts from Dr. Kellersberger's paper, "Leprosy Today," mentioned in the above article, will appear in the March STAR.

Editorial (Continued)
importance of making this place homelike and of giving the patient a chance to lead a normal life in every respect. Patients will live in separate, completely detached, self-contained homes, one man to each house or perhaps two friends sharing a house. Dr. Moiser encourages the idea of even healthy wives coming to live with their husbands (for conjugal infections are rare). People should feel "OF" the place and not "IN" it, quoted Dr. Moiser.

There is a vast gulf between the institutional idea of a leprosarium, which prompted such rules as 6(b) and the other regulations made a quarter of a century ago for this hospital, and the modern concept of a leprosarium. To bridge this gulf it will be necessary to discard outmoded institutional regulations. Let us hope that our post-war objective will also be to "humanize" the leprosarium. It can be done.

S.S.

I have never studied the art of paying compliments to women; but I must say that, if all that has been said by orators and poets, since the creation of the world, in praise of women, were applied to the women of America it would not do them justice for their conduct during this war. God bless the women of America!

- - -Lincoln

TWINKLE ☆ TWINKLE LITTLE STAR

Just a line to let you know I am enjoying the "Star" immensly. The days I spent at Carville left very many pleasant memories and it is nice to read of all my old friends among the personnel and patients.

Dr.Vega, the dentist from Donaldsonville, was stationed here for some time while in the service and we had many nice chats about Carville.

I'm looking forward to a post-war visit and hope I won't have to wait too long to make it.

John J. Prendergast,M.D.
Rees-Stealy Clinic
San Diego, Cal.

Dr. Prendergast spent several months at this hospital in 1938, doing special work in the eye clinic. It was then, for the first time, that certain modern equipment was installed and the patients have had the benefit of this ever since.In his report to the U.S.P.H.S. he recommended that a resident eye physician be included on the hospital staff. Dr. Prendergast's paper, "Resume of Ocular Leprosy in the U.S.," based on his work here, was read before the A.M.A. Meeting, St. Louis, 1939.

Through the cooperation of our friend, Matt Monaghan,Department Adjutant,Department of Louisiana, The American Legion THE STAR is receiving subscriptions from officials of the Legion from the North, South, East and West. Recent subscribers include J. Jay Long, Dept. Adjutant, Seattle, Washington; R. J. Laird, Dept. Adjutant, Des Moines, Iowa; G.H. Stordock, Dept. Adjuatant,Milwaukee, Wis.; Charles A.Firth,Dept. Commander, Safford Arizona; John J. Saslavsky, Dept.Adjutant, Columbus,Ohio;Herbert Kibler,Dept. Adjutant, Helena,Montana; Ben W. Weir, Dept. Commander,Pittsburg, Kansas; W.P. Shadoan, Dept. Commander, Wickliffe,Kentucky; Fred W. Rowell,State Service Officer, Augusta, Maine; Coleman C. Curran,Dept. Adjutant,Boston,Mass.; William C. Mundt, Dept.Adjutant, Bloomington, Illinois.

From Joseph Q.Heplar, Formerly employed as a laboratory technician here comes the message below Mr. Heplar is now living in Raleigh, North Carolina. Box 711

"I trust that you all have not suspected that I have been trying to forget Carville and all the pleasant associations that I enjoyed among the patients.The extraordinary fine fellowship at the station shall always be a most cherished memory for me.

So, in order to keep abreast of current activities down there, I beg to be placed on your subscription list. However,inasmuch as I have a more intimate appreciation of what's going on at the "hospital", I would be particularly grateful for occasional inside gossip direct from the blind house, so I could really be in the "know".

Very happy to inform you I was promoted to Sergeant on the first of november, and placed as Non-Commissioned officer in charge of the laboratory at the Flight Surgeon office in Miami Beach. The Army has been very kind to me in giving me an opportunity to continue my laboratory work while in service.

It really is impossible to duplicate the excellence of the Army laboratory course I received at Technician School.

My best wishes to all the personnel and patients at Carville.

Sincerely,
Sgt. Odon Amedde,
Miami Beach, Florida

AND I REMEMBER WHEN

by Ross Smith

Oft times when I say I am from Grand Cayman people think I mean the Grand Canyon. I spent the first twenty years of my life in Grand Cayman, a low flat wooded island in the Caribbean off the coast of Cuba, having the most beautiful beaches in the world. The chief industry is fishing for green turtles which are shipped to Florida. The islands are shaped like an alligator and Cayman is the Spanish word for alligator. You see all three of these islands once belonged to Spain but now English is the spoken language as they are British possessions.

When I was a child my father bought a new clock, that started me to thinking. What made it tick and run? Every time I tried to get my hands on it Papa would see me and take it away. That didn't discourage me.

Our beds were covered with the old fashioned counterpanes that reached clear to the floor and the bedsteads were quite high. I waited my chance and when Sunday brought visitors to see Mama and Papa I grabbed that clock and a screw driver and crawled under the bed. I unscrewed every screw and took out all of the insides. I found the answers to my questions, then put it back together again and joined the family and our visitors.

Some months later I came home from school and noticed that the clock was not running.

"Mama, what happened to the new clock?" I asked.

"While I was busy with my work the youngsters took it out doors and filled it with sand. Suppose Papa will have to take it to town and get it fixed," she said.

This was my chance!

"Mama, I can fix that clock for you."

"Now,Ross, you know I wouldn't think of letting you touch it. You'd fix it beyond repair."

Sunday came around again and also visitors, I got that clock and the screwdriver and crawled back under the bed. I stayed there until I had the clock running,too.Imagine the family's surprise when they noticed it running again. When I told them I cleaned it and put it back together I believe they actually doubted my word,but it was keeping good time. After that there weren't any arguments or any crawling under the bed to repair the neighbors' clocks.

Since I've been hospitalized at Carville I have a small shop in one of the vocational buildings and work all day long repairing clocks and watches. Business is awfully good and if I could only buy the needed parts there are many more of these watches I could get to running again.

What did I do before I came to Carville? I was in the British Merchant Marine for almost two years, but that is a part of my life I am not free to talk about for the British are very particular, the very things I say might be the things I should keep secret. Rather than run that risk I would rather not talk about my experiences at sea.

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Edotor's note: From the things Ross has told us,but that we are not at liberty to print, we know his experiences in the British Merchant Marine would read like an adventure story. Someday this war will be over and several of our boys will be able to give these stories to the press. Until then we must be silent and continue to admire their reluctance to discuss these matters.

NOW IT CAN BE TOLD! The girls spent many busy weeks prior to Christmas with one theme song : knit 2, purl 2 for 4 inches, knit one row, purl one row for 10½ inches, bind off 7 stitches,etc.

The projects were varied but a number of the finished articles were to be gifts and I was threatened with a terrible fate if I breathed a word until the big day had passed.

Betty knitted a keen slip over tan sweater with a cable stitch design for friend husband, Grace has been knitting the cutest top knot caps imaginable, plus three sweaters, Louise Ann is still busy on a sweater, Elvira has completed a breath taking maroon cardigan that fits like a dream, Annie's needles have been working overtime as she crochets and knits the greater part of her spare time and Miracle has laid aside her knitting to crochet a few beannies.

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Girls, do you recall that just three years ago this past January 20 was that big moving day for us? The first houses, now occupied by the ladies, were completed. We had to evacuate our old quarters to let the men move in so that their old houses might be demolished, making room for the new ones.

Everything on wheels was prest into service that afternoon and every available man was carrying dresses, pillows, blankets, and what have you. The new elevator refused to work to get our things upstairs,possibly because it is so easily operated that we were trying to make work out of it.

Many of us not only had our belongings to move but those of a friend who was ill at the time causing double trouble. We've grown accustomed to living in these large two story houses but those first few days we felt sure we must be registered at the Hotel Astor but for the lack of bell boys and room service.

Moving personal belongings of myself and my chum was not comparable to the day the thousands of library books were dumped on wagons, then finally piled in stacks in the middle of the floor of temporary quarters.

Fiction, nonfiction, juvenile and poetry were all in one conglomeration. In the middle of this mess an optimist strolled in nonchalantly and requested THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS. He'll never know how close he was to his permanent "last"! Attempting to match his unconcern I simply responded, "Help yourself!"

I can still get a headache thinking of the job of separating those books and getting them in order. By the time this was in running shape orders came to move into the permanent library.

Much had been learned and this change was made with the assistance of many friends but no one dared ask for a book for a couple of days.

Still another day returns to my mind. We were out of school on vacation and the wrecking crew had finished demolishing all buildings near the school and were ready for it when someone looked in the windows and saw the books and desks. They were saved, and now we can chuckle a bit over our memories.

ALL AROUND THE TOWN

We nominate Luke, the assistant chef, official Oyster soup maker. There isn't a shadow of a doubt that it was the best ever served for everyone was going back for a second helping. Why can't we do this more often?

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Ever since that new poster was placed in the recreation hall asking "Is your trip necessary?" Manuel has been wondering if it is really necessary to leave on his discharge. "I could wait until the war's over", says Manuel. Such patriotism!

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Imagine ordering 25¢ worth of rice and receiving 25#. That is exactly what happened to Miriam. When she called at the mail window and asked if there was a small package for her from the store a few miles down the road and was handed that huge bag her eyes must have bulged and her mouth gaped. She had to open a rice market and sell the other girls portions of it.

Another time when Miriam went to the mail window she was all smiles for the parcel was that long looked for one from Ireland. Her boy friend is stationed there with the armed forces and sent real Irish linens for her Hope Chest.

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Mary Ruth doesn't believe there is a bit of truth in that old adage "All good things come in small packages" for she received a belated Christmas present recently in a large package and it proved to be a Remington Envoy typewriter. Now, Mary, you can be an envoy of good cheer to those brothers in the armed services at even more frequent intervals.

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During January when we walked into the Canteen and saw the usually empty shelves filled with good things to eat we could not decide if we were dreaming or if there wasn't a war and rationing anymore. It looked like a miniature of the cash and carry grocery stores as we rememberd them, back in the good old days.

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We've all heard of the book entitled BASIC ENGLISH but Dona Isabella (Betty to you) is wondering why there isn't such a book on Spanish.

She worked for almost an hour and consulted gobs of text books one night recently to compose about five lines of correct Spanish. The finished masterpiece said anything but what she desired, we are told.

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Darrell is a year older and a birthday supper for some 17 or 18 guests at the "Club" marked the happy occasion.

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William and Jim are two fine cooks when it comes to preparing real Chinese dishes. We were their guests one evening for egg Foo Young and Chow Mein and we enjoyed it so much that a week later another Chinese meal was prepared.

Alan proved he wasn't just talking when he said he could use Chop Sticks as well as William and Jim but we were afraid of missing too much of the food intransit to attempt this new feat. Afraid we disappointed the boys terribly by using sugar in real Chinese tea tho'.

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When is a rabbit not a rabbit? Put that rather cockeyed question to any occupant of House 20-1 and you will get a cockeyed answer. It all came about this way. Just the

(See Page 14)

All Around the Town-Continued

other day the entire house was permeated by the most delicious aroma. Heads popped out of doors, sniffing the air appreciatively and from one to the other went the message, "Someone is cooking a rabbit." But who? By a process of elimination the culinary artist who had set everybody to drooling turned out to be none other than Tony and he was cooking porkchops!

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Congratulations to Harry and his genial wife on their 25th wedding anniversary which they celebrated in January. For this occasion Mrs. G. prepared a sumptuous roast turkey dinner just for the family and four very lucky friends. It was a grand spread. Harry's ever cheerful disposition was even more beaming that day. An orchid to both of these real people!

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Congratulations are also in order to Mrs. Ella, affectionately known as "Mom", on her 44th wedding anniversary and her natal day. Both events coming in February were the occasion of a friendly gathering at House 17. Refreshments were served.

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In observance of its 14th anniversary the Mexican Club entertained with a supper in the Ballroom for members and invited guests on Friday, February 4. Following the supper there was a dance to which the entire patient body was invited.

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It is good to see Mr. Jim Burque on the walks again. Uncle Jim, as we call him, has been a night watchman on our walks for many years. He has just recovered from a tough bout with the flu and we hope he has those flu germs licked. We missed you!

Good food is bought for you and me,
Cooked by our mystery chef, Mr. C.,
What happens in his cookery?
That, my friends, is the mystery.
AMEN, BROTHER!

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Dalton (at THE STAR typewriter): Do you use a small "d" in writing Hansen's disease?
Ann (in her best schoolteacher's voice): Certainly.
William (the not so innocent bystander): Small "d" nothing. As far as I am concerned it rates a capital "D".

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The tin-pan-alley artist who dreamed up the lyrics for the popular new ditty, "Have I Been Away Too Long?" must have gotten his inspiration from reading Carville's mail.

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One patient was overheard remarking to his friend, "I just can't take promin or any of those sulfa drugs." "Why?" asked the friend. "Because," said he "my red corporals won't behave."-- The Germans have trouble with them, too.

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Who would have thought that the day would come when "Yes, we have no bananas" would really mean what it says? In those dear dead days beyond recall, following the arrival of a banana boat, there would be bananas for breakfast, dinner and supper and patients turned up their noses at the mere mention of one. Now, when someone goes on vacation and asks, "What can I bring you?" the answer is "Some bananas."

PERSONNEL PERSONALS

by Mary E. Browne

Dr. and Mrs. B. M. Prejean have announced the aproaching marriage of their daughter, Jacqueline Catherine, to Corporal Aubrey John LaPlace, the wedding to take place early in February when Corporal LaPlace comes home on his first furlough since entering the military service.

He is at present stationed in El Paso, Texas.

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On Saturday afternoon, January 22, Mrs. Edward Stanley honored the bride-to-be, Jacqueline Prejean, with a tea.

The room was lovely with spring flowers and a patriotic motif was carried out.

A heart shaped bridal cake was in the center of the attractively arranged table, the honoree cutting the first slice. Mrs. G. H. Fagot and Mrs. J. J. LaPlace, the mother of the groom-to-be, poured tea and coffee which was served with sandwiches, cookies and nuts.

Many guests from the station and surrounding communities called during the afternoon.

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First Lt. Miller Turner (Laboratory) was called to active duty in the Army on January 21, reporting to Harding Field, Baton Rouge.

Mrs. Turner and children, Michael Kathleen and Suzanne have gone to Salt Lake City for the duration.

The Turners will be sincerely missed and we wish them God's blessing and an early return to Carville.

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Mrs. Grace Roberts spent ten days looking over the metropolis, New York City, while enjoying a visit with her husband, Mail Clerk 2nd Class Earl Roberts, U. S. Navy who is now on duty in that city.

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Mrs. Edward Stanley has left for a visit to Captain and Mrs. Chas. Johnson at Tucson, Arizona.

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We are sorry to report the illness of two former residents of the station. Rev. A. P. Boyd, until recently confined to his bed at the General Hospital in Baton Rouge, and Mr. Henry C. Roberts, who has been ill at his home in Baton Rouge.

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The Officers' Supper Club met with Mrs. B. M. Prejean on the evening of January 6. Dr. G. W. McCoy of New Orleans and Dr. Clark of Chicago, both on the station at the time, were guests.

The meetings of this Club always provide a gala evening for both members and guests.

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The Friday Afternoon Bridge Club met twice during January with Mrs. Ralph Sharp and Mrs. Edward Stanley as hostesses.

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On Tuesday evening, January 18 the Personnel Bridge Club met in the Recreation Room with Mrs. Prejean and Mrs. Stanley as co-hostesses. Prizes were won by Dr. Pogge, Mrs. David Gleason, Mrs. Malarcher and Mrs. Haase.

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The annual meeting of the Marine Hospital Golf Club was held on Thursday, January 21, in the Staff Library. Those in office were unanimously re-elected. Dr. G. H. Faget is Presidant, Dr. F. A. Johansen is Vice-President and Mr. Russel Tice is Secretary-Treasurer.

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Mrs. Ruth Hudson enjoyed a visit with friends in Texas during the latter part of January.

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Miss Peggy Jean Pace of Fort Worth, Texas, was a guest of Dr. and Mrs. J. F. Dinan recently.

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Mrs. T. J. Newman (Elmira Roberts of St. Louis was a guest of the Norman Hernandez's last month.

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WORDS OF THE WISE

DR. G. H.Faget said it:

This is the Modern Age,the age of Light. Let us have the truth. Leprosy is not a dirt disease . Leprosy is not due to any sin committed by those who contract it. It is not a retaliation of God against its victims. Leprosy is a germ disease just as tuberculosis, typhoid fever and pneumonia are germ diseases. It is no more shameful to be infected with the germs of leprosy than with those of tuberculosis, typhoid or pneumonia. So why discriminate against one of these diseases? Ignorance is the answer.